



CONNECTICUT STATE  
COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES  
BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

**Testimony by David Levinson**  
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Board of Regents for Higher Education  
Connecticut State Colleges & Universities  
Before the Higher Education and  
Employment Advancement Committee  
March 19, 2013

Good afternoon Senators Bye and Boucher, Representatives Willis and LeGeyt, and members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee. My name is David Levinson and I am the Vice President for the Community Colleges at the Board of Regents for Higher Education, which governs our state's four state universities, 12 community colleges and Charter Oak State College. Collectively, we are known as the Connecticut State Colleges & Universities. I am also the President of Norwalk Community College. I am here to offer testimony regarding **House Bill 6562, *An Act Concerning Adult Education and Transition to College***.

We support House Bill 6562 which provides an opportunity for high school students with diplomas to seek additional remedial support from adult education programs if such remedial education is needed in order to provide a streamlined, effective and efficient approach for transition to postsecondary education.

As you are aware, the Board of Regents for Higher Education has been working collaboratively across our 17 institutions during the last year to provide a framework and foundation in support of the legislation passed last year reforming the way in which we provide remedial education. Representatives from all of our institutions have worked together to create regional teams to review, discuss, analyze and create potential approaches to support embedded remedial instruction at the postsecondary level rather than separate and distinct remedial coursework.

We support the need for external partnerships to assist in the collaborative and creative solutions to this issue. Eastern Connecticut State University President Elsa Núñez and I met with a number of our key partners state-wide, such as representatives from the Workforce Investment Boards, adult education, community-based partners and organizations, and industry associations. Only through diligent efforts supported by all concerned parties can institutions be successful in creating and implementing a model that most effectively provides remedial education services and increases student achievement and completion.

In late April, the Board of Regents for Higher Education and the Connecticut Employment and Training Commission (CETC) are co-hosting a conference entitled *"Collaboration Conference on Returning Adults: Partnering to Meet the Requirements of Public Act 12-40."* This conference will feature presentations by many of our external state-wide partners on the subject of current remediation efforts and successful programs and will also allow our regional institutional teams the opportunity to meet to further discuss approaches to collaborative efforts to best support all our students.